

# ENGLISH

The English program at Gunn High School focuses on the traditional concerns of the discipline—Literature, Composition, Language and Grammar. Literature serves as a resource for both the study of ideas, culture, and values, and the development of composition skills. The study of composition and writing emphasizes the art and the craft, the organization and the support, and the clear and effective use of language in its written forms. Vocabulary, language, and grammar studies are integrated with the study of literature and composition.

The Gunn English program includes a four-year sequence of required and elective semester-long courses designed to meet students' needs in literature, composition, and language study at levels appropriate to their individual skills and abilities in English. The complete sequence includes required courses in American, British, Contemporary, and World Literatures, and in communication skills and literary genres.

In 2010-2011, students in grades 9 and 10 should enroll for the two courses required of freshmen and sophomores. They should indicate on their Course Request forms a choice of (a) one semester of Contemporary Writers (General) or Contemporary Heritage (Advanced) AND (b) one semester of The Writers Voice (General) or Literary Style (Advanced). The other two required courses for grades 9 and 10 will be offered the following year. The choice of general or advanced should be made with consideration of such things as prior performance in English classes, development of skills, and interests. Consultation with current English teacher and counselor may be helpful in making a choice.

In 2010-2011, students in grades 11 and 12 will select one required semester of American Literature and one elective course. During registration all students should enroll in American Dream (General). The English department will determine which students will be placed in American Classics II H, which carries "honors" designation on the transcript. In addition, students in grades 11 and 12 should indicate on their Course Request forms a choice of one semester elective and two alternate selections. *It is very important to make accurate and thoughtful selections on this early form so that the department schedule reflects students' choices accurately; requests made later are often difficult or impossible to satisfy, and courses with insufficient initial student enrollment are deleted from the department schedule.*

Students interested in English Literature AP will find the course described on page 73. Accepting enrollment in the course indicates a student's commitment to taking the AP Examination in Literature and Composition.

## **ESLRs and Homework Expectations for English Courses**

The four-year sequence of English courses provides students opportunities to demonstrate competence in all areas of the Expected Schoolwide Learning Results. Each course places particular emphasis on the following three ESLRs: 2) effective communication through listening, speaking, and writing; 5) reading with understanding; and 6) critical and creative thinking to solve problems.

By the nature of the discipline, the study of English will take some learners longer than others. In addition, the cycles of long- and short-term projects make a statement of the amount of time required an estimation and an average. Homework for English courses comprise reading, writing, and the study of vocabulary. Advanced and honors courses, including College English, require an average of three to five hours per week of work outside of class; regular and elective courses usually require less time.

### **CONTEMPORARY WRITERS (GENERAL)**

**1190    CONTWRIT                                    Semester                                    9-10**

This course is for students who want a general program in high school English and uses the works and ideas of modern writers such as Ernest J. Gaines, T.H. White, Ernest Hemingway and Harper Lee as the focus for studying literature and composition at the high school level. Because it is a required course, it includes particular emphasis on instruction in reading and writing. One semester of this course or Contemporary Heritage is required.

### **CONTEMPORARY HERITAGE (ADVANCED)**

**1191 CONT HERIT Semester 9-10**

This course is for students who want an advanced program in high school English and uses the work of both modern writers such as John Knowles, Harper Lee and Ernest J. Gaines, and Charles Dickens to explore the sources of contemporary trends and thought in literature and composition. Because this is a required course, it includes particular emphasis on instruction in reading and writing. One semester of this course or Contemporary Writers is required.

### **WRITER'S VOICE (GENERAL)**

**1192 WRTR VOICE Semester 9-10**

This course introduces students in a general English program to the writer's choices for communicating a message through the variety of literary types: a Shakespearean drama, short stories, poetry, and the novel. Because it is a required course, the works provide the resources for particular emphasis on instruction in reading and literature, writing and composition. One semester of this course or Literary Style is required.

### **LITERARY STYLE (ADVANCED)**

**1193 LIT STYLE Semester 9-10**

This course introduces students in an advanced English program to the writer's options in literary genres such as drama, short story, novel, and poetry. Because it is a required course, the works of writers such as Shakespeare, Hardy, and Golding provide the resources for particular emphasis on instruction in reading and literature, writing and composition. One semester of this course or Writer's Voice is required.

### **AMERICAN DREAM (GENERAL)**

**1293 AMER DREAM Semester 11-12**

This course for students in the general English program uses the works of important American writers such as Fitzgerald, Steinbeck, Miller, Tan, and Lee as the focus for studying the composition and literature as well as American thought and values. Because it is a required course, it includes a particular emphasis on instruction in reading and writing. One semester of this course or American Classics H or 11H is required.

### **AMERICAN CLASSICS 11H (ADVANCED)**

**1309 AM CLASS 11H Semester 11-12**

This course for students who want an advanced program in English uses the works of major American writers such as Hawthorne, Melville, Fitzgerald, and Faulkner as the source of studying composition and literature as well as American thought, culture, and values. As a required course, it includes a particular emphasis on instruction in reading and writing. Enrollment in this course requires meeting prerequisites of performance and the recommendation of a former or current Gunn English teacher; this allows students to earn "weighted" grading.

### **AMERICAN STUDIES**

**1288 AMER STUDY Year 11**

This year-long interdisciplinary course combines the study of U.S. History and American Literature. In this course, students will explore American culture and history through the use of historical documents and readings from a wide range of classic authors, from F. Scott Fitzgerald to Alice Walker. In addition, the course incorporates the art, music, film, and popular culture of the 20<sup>th</sup> century in American society. Through field trips, students have the opportunity to explore the rich history of the Bay Area. American Studies is open to juniors only, and fulfills the US History requirement as well as the American

Literature requirement for English. Students may choose to use this course towards either American Classics I1H or American Dream, and may elect to take it for English honors credit. It will be offered alternate years, in order to coincide with the English department's American literature offerings.

## **ELECTIVE COURSES**

These courses are open only to juniors and seniors, may not be repeated for credit, and will be offered annually **only if there is sufficient enrollment**. All electives meet the UC specifications for a significant reading and writing component unless otherwise indicated.

### **BEGINNING JOURNALISM**

**1457 JOURNAL II** Semester / Fall 9-12

Through reading and analyzing professional models of non-fiction writing including news, features, editorials, and reviews, students will learn to plan, write, and revise news stories, profiles, personal experience, observational, and persuasive writing. Students will acquire the skills of fact gathering and note taking through interviews with primary sources and research of secondary sources. This elective course is a prerequisite for Advanced Journalism.

### **ADVANCED JOURNALISM**

**1453 ADV JOURN** Year (By application only)

This course does not meet U.C. English requirements.

Through such activities as reading and analyzing professional models, interviewing, research and writing, revising and editing, students will demonstrate the mastery of journalistic writing and ethics needed for publication of their work in the school and professional press. Students will acquire the technical skills needed for desktop publishing. At least a B in Non-Fiction Writing (Beginning Journalism) is a prerequisite for this course. The course may be repeated for district graduation credit, but currently has not received approval to substitute UC English elective credit. With approval of the instructor, this course may also satisfy the Career/Vocational Education requirement.

### **FACING HISTORY & OURSELVES – SOCIAL JUSTICE THROUGH LITERATURE**

**1317 FACFILMLIT** Semester 11-12

*We need citizens with the moral imagination required to be tolerant of difference, who understand what a creative act it is to connect themselves to others.* – Margot Strol

This course allows students to become engaged in analytical and critical thinking about identity, history and ethics, and exploring lessons of civic courage, compassion, and responsibility in our society. Through writing, literature, film discussion, and community service, students will be challenged to examine the deep roots of social injustice and negative traditions of discrimination and prejudices with the goal of promoting a more humane and informed citizenry.

### **COLLEGE PREP SKILLS**

**1334 BAS COL SK** Semester / Summer 11-12

This course focuses on grammar, vocabulary, writing, and SAT preparation. It is designed to help students achieve higher scores on college entrance examinations. Instruction focuses on the requisite skills: critical thinking (reading comprehension), vocabulary development, sentence completion techniques, effective timed essay writing, and thorough teaching of grammar. This course thus prepares students for success in college as well as for entry into the students' colleges of their choice.

## **THE WORKS OF SHAKESPEARE**

**1364 SHAKESPERE Semester 11-12**

Afraid of being called a “beetle-headed, flap-ear’d knave”? Learn the language to fight back.

This course introduces the students to the range of Shakespeare's plays, including comedies, tragedies and histories, and to his sonnets. The course will also introduce students to Shakespeare's language and times. Students need not be experts in Shakespearean plays to enroll in the course. Experts and novices alike are welcome.

## **ESCAPE LITERATURE**

**1384 ESCAPE LIT Semester 11-12**

This course explores some of the literary avenues of escape from the ordinary through stories and novels selected from mystery and suspense, horror, fantasy and science fiction. We will do both expository and creative writing and a variety of individual and group projects related to the stories and books we read.

## **CLASSICAL MYTHOLOGY**

**1469 CLASS MYTH Semester 11-12**

The antics and adventures of the ancient Greek gods and goddesses, heroes and monsters come alive in this multidisciplinary elective for juniors and seniors. Through the study of drama, art, athletics, poetry and architecture of ancient times, students will learn the iconography, the stories, the philosophy and the history which so influence our modern world. Students will read modern interpretations of the myths, perform the ancient tragedies and comedies, create written and artistic interpretations of their own and learn the history of Greek religious belief from the goddess-worshipping Minoans to the patriarchy of classical Greece.

## **WOMEN WRITERS**

**1314 WOM WRIT Semester 11-12**

This course allows students to focus their studies on works by women writers and to hear a wide range of cultural and historical female voices. Both contemporary and traditional authors will be explored, and all genres will be included.

## **DRAMATIC LITERATURE IN PERFORMANCE**

**1203 DRAMLTPERF Semester / Fall 11-12**

This interdisciplinary course for juniors and seniors offers students five units of English and five units of Drama credit. Students will enrich their study of a variety of plays as literary texts with hands-on experiences involving every facet of creating the "living" play. Students need not have extensive acting experience. Offered in alternate years. Any student wishing to enroll in this class must also be enrolled concurrently in Theatre 3 or 4.

## **ANALYSIS OF THE WRITER'S CRAFT**

**7601 WRIT CR II Semester 11-12**

**This is the course formerly known as Creative Writing.** This course offers students who are serious about writing an opportunity to read and write in such genres as short fiction, poetry, short drama, and personal essay. Students are required to share their writing regularly with other students in the class. Students are encouraged to enter at least one writing competition or submit writing to a journal or newspaper. The course is recommended only for students who understand that the best writing comes from both creativity and discipline.

## **SHORT FICTION**

**1383 FICTION Semester 11-12**

"This blind man, an old friend of my wife's, he was coming to spend the night." So begins one of the short stories we'll read—written by American authors since the founding of this country. From Jhumpa Lahiri to Herman Melville, Bernard Malamud to Richard Bausch, Joyce Carol Oates to Edgar Allan Poe, "Short Fiction" introduces you to writers who write short. (They're neither as greedy for your time as novelists are nor as puzzling as poets!) The course is rich in discussion and reading, stresses content in writing over technique, and revels in spare modern language as well as 19<sup>th</sup> century multisyllablificationism. After figuring out what makes stories tick, you'll write your own; group panel-discussions will give you tremendous independence—but mainly you'll have the new companionship of all kinds of authors.

## **FILM AS COMPOSITION AND LITERATURE**

**1332 FILM LIT Semester 11-12**

This course relates composition in the motion picture to student reading and writing. It introduces the art and technique of film through a history of the film and a study of its genre and directors. Activities help the student explore film as art and as composition.

## **PHILOSOPHY THROUGH LITERATURE**

**1179 PHILOS LIT Semester 11-12**

What is the purpose of our lives? Can we know what's right and wrong? What is real? How should we live our lives? In this introductory course we will read literature written by Asian prophets, ancient Greeks, renaissance philosophers, modern novelists, feminists and scientists (among others) in their attempt to answer these questions. Students will be encouraged to discuss, debate and write about their own beliefs as they explore the enduring enigmas of our human existence.

## **ENGLISH LITERATURE & COMPOSITION AP**

**1279 ENGLIT AP Year Grade 12 only**

This limited-enrollment advanced study course is open to seniors who qualify on the basis of prior performance in English, the quality of a writing portfolio, and the recommendation of the Department Honors Committee. The focus is on college-level work in reading and writing, culminating in preparation for the Advanced Placement Examination in English Literature and Composition. Application forms with portfolio requirements are made available each spring in the English office. Accepting enrollment in this course indicates a student's commitment to taking the AP Examination in Literature and Composition in the spring.

Additional information is on page 73.

## **READING BETWEEN THE LINES**

**1027 READ LINES Semester 11-12**

### **The Expository Reading and Writing Course**

This course is designed for the college-bound student who wants to strengthen reading, writing and critical thinking skills in preparation for university-level demands. The majority of our reading will be non-fiction texts drawn from a variety of disciplines. We will do most of our reading in class, with a focus on developing strategies to help students understand even the most difficult content. We will also have lively discussion and write both informal and formal responses to our reading. By the end of the course, students will read more quickly, more skillfully, and with more enjoyment and be able to present their ideas in polished prose.

UC "b" credit approved. Pending Board approval.